TOLD IN NEW CHILLING PICTO-FICTION

WEIRD

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IN THIS ISSUE:

THE GRUESOME SHOCK OF

THE SKIN CRAWLERS

PLUS

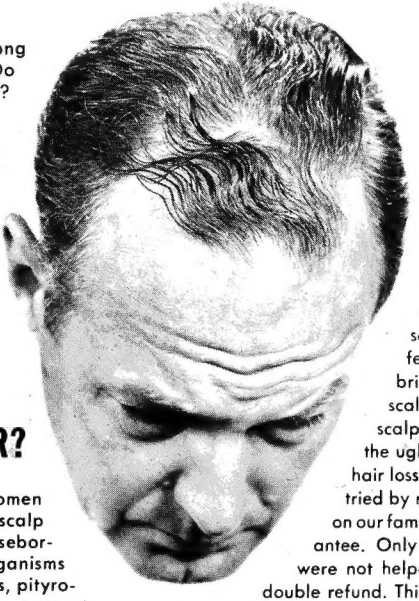
SCREAMING HORROR FILLS

THE EVIL IDOL

IS YOUR HAIR GROWING OR GOING?

Stand in front of a mirror. Take a long hard look at the top of your head. Do you have as much hair as one year ago? Do you see any new hair growth?

If your answer is no, it is important that you take steps today to save the hair you now have. If you act now, you may be able to reverse the trend on your head. You may be able to grow new hair faster than it is falling out. Doesn't that make sense to you? Wouldn't you like to look in the mirror a year from now and see more hair on your head than you see now? Why lose your hair if you don't have to?



CAN YOU SAVE YOUR HAIR?

Every year thousands of men and women go bald — needlessly — because of a scalp infection. This scalp infection is called seborrhea. Doctors say that three germ organisms cause seborrhea: staphyloccocus albus, pityrosporum ovale, and microbacillus. These germs attack the sebacious glands and the hair follicles themselves. If not checked, permament damage is done. The hair follicles atrophy, lose their ability to produce new hairs. The result: premature baldness.

You can easily tell if you are a victim of seborrhea. If you have itchy scalp, dandruff, hair loss, very dry or oily scalp, the chances are that you have seborrhea. Neglect these symptoms and you invite baldness.

Treat your scalp to Ward's Formula. This amazing scalp medicine quickly controls seborrhea and stops the hair loss it causes.

Here's the Proof!

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the *most* help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no *dandruff!* *W. T. W., Portola, Cal.*

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

Male pattern baldness is the cause of the great majority of cases of baldness and excessive hair loss, for which neither the Ward treatment nor any other treatment is effective.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

In seconds, Ward's Formula kills the three parasitic germ organisms retarding normal hair growth. This swift germicidal action has been proven in scientific tests by a world-famous testing laboratory (copy of laboratory report sent on request). Ward's removes infectious dandruff, stops scalp itch, brings hair-nourishing blood to the scalp, tends to normalize very dry or oily scalp. In brief Ward's Formula corrects the ugly symptoms of seborrhea, stops the hair loss it causes. Ward's Formula has been tried by more than 550,000 men and women on our famous Double-Your-Money-Back Guarantee. Only 1.9% of these men and women were not helped by Ward's and asked for their double refund. This is truly an amazing performance.

Why not join the men and women who have successfully ended their troubles? Treat your scalp with Ward's Formula. *Try it at our risk.* In only 10 days you must see and feel the marked improvement in your scalp and hair. Your dandruff must be gone. Your scalp itch must stop. Your hair must look thicker, more attractive, and alive. Your excessive hair loss must stop. You must be completely satisfied—in only 10 days—with the improved condition of your scalp and hair, or simply return the unused portion for Double Your Money Back. So why delay? Delay may cost your hair.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc., 19 West 44 Street, N. Y. 36, N. Y. © 1963

Doctors and hospitals can obtain professional samples of Ward's Formula on written request.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc. Dept. 14731
19 West 44 Street, New York, N. Y. 10036

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I must be completely satisfied in only 10 days or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

☐ Enclosed find $2, send postpaid (check, cash, money order)
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman $2 plus 76 cents in postal charges (save the 76 cents by enclosing $2)
☐ Send triple size for $5. You save $1.

Canadian, foreign, add 50 cents — No C.O.D.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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CARL BURGOS, Editor **IRVING FASS**, Art Diretcor
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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WHAT STRANGE AND **GHASTLY** SECRETS HAD THE ANCIENT INN TO TELL? WHAT **EVIL** POWER DID IT EXERT TO **LURE** MEN WITHIN ITS WALLS???

The SKIN CRAWLERS

DARNTON'S FEET SEARCHED THE DARK STAIRS WHEN HE SAW...
THAT LIGHT.. IT'S WEIRD... GHOSTLY! SEEMS TO PULL AT ME!

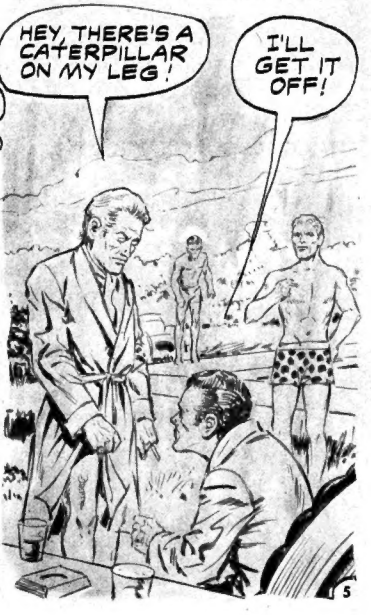
THE STRANGE LIGHT DREW DARNTON LIKE A MAGNET AND SLOWLY HE STARTED DOWN THE STEPS...
WHAT AN UNUSUAL LIGHT?... EVERYONE'S ASLEEP! I'LL GO DOWN NOW! MUST FIND OUT!

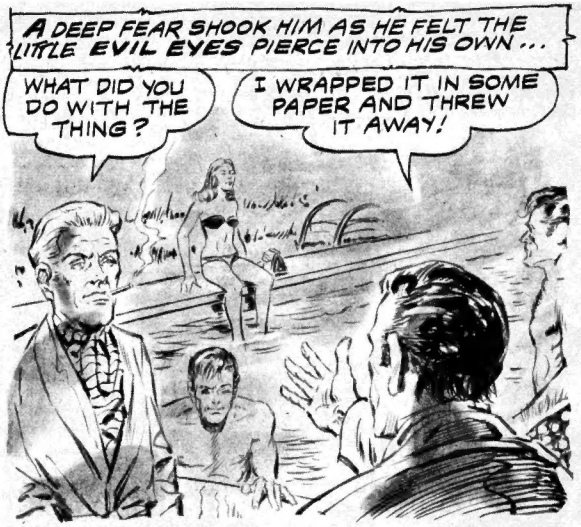
SLOWLY, CAREFULLY, DARNTON CRAWLED DOWN THE STAIRS AND STEPPED THRU THE LIGHTED DOOR INTO A WORLD OF HORROR
UGGH! GHASTLY! I-I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE THEY SEE ME!

THE NEXT DAY...

HELP! HELP!

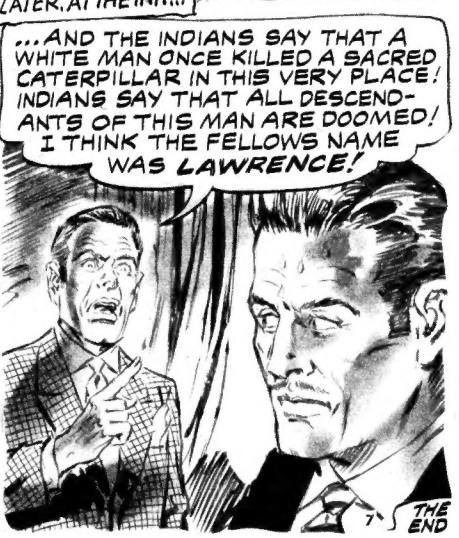
THIS IS THE LIFE! I'M GLAD YOU TALKED ME INTO COMING HERE! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE NOT ILL?
NO, I'M O.K.!
NO SENSE TELLING ANYONE WHAT I SAW! THEY'D THINK I WAS MAD!


HEY, THERE'S A CATERPILLAR ON MY LEG!
I'LL GET IT OFF!



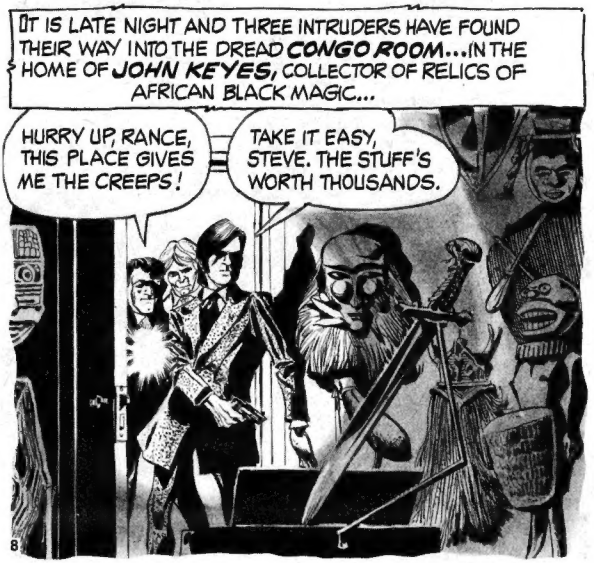
LATER AS DARNTON ENTERS THE ROOM HE WAS SHOCKED AS THE FETID CREATURES SILENTLY MOVE, SLITHERING LIKE WORMS TOWARD HIM.

THROUGH THE SLEEPLESS NIGHT, DARNTON PACED THE FLOOR, PALE WITH FRIGHT! AT DAWN HE WENT TO LAWRENCE'S ROOM.



THE END

THE EVIL IDOL



TOO BAD YOU GOT A LOOK AT ME, LADY! I HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FINGER ME!
J-JOHN... H--MMMM!
KLIK!

A GUN WOULD MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE. THIS GADGET OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK.
SACRED SERPENT SWORD OF SARABI

DON'T WORRY, BOYS! NO ONE'S LAYING THIS JOB AT OUR DOORSTEP. I GOT A PERFECT ALIBI ALL SET UP FOR THE THREE OF US!

EARLY NEXT MORNING, JOHN KEYES MADE A GRISLY DISCOVERY...
MARIA!

REST WELL, MY DEAR. THE FOOLS USED THE SACRED SWORD. YOU WILL BE AVENGED.

SOME DAYS LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE LIEUTENANT REYNOLDS..
SORRY, KEYES. I HAVEN'T A THING ON YOUR WIFE'S KILLERS.
LIEUTENANT, YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL KNOWN CRIMINALS. I WANT TO LOOK AT THEM.

CAREFULLY, KEYES WENT THROUGH THE PHOTOS, HOLDING THE STRANGE SWORD ABOVE EACH...
RANCE COLLINS. HE WAS ONE OF THE KILLERS. THE LEGEND SAYS THAT THE SWORD BLEEDS OVER THE LIKENESS OF ONE WHO USED IT LAST!
IT--IT'S INCREDIBLE!

RANCE COLLINS. STEVE MADROGI. MAC WILKINS. THEY ARE MY WIFE'S MURDERERS.
YOU'D BETTER LEAVE POLICE WORK TO THE POLICE...AND NOT RELY ON BLACK MAGIC!... I'VE ALREADY QUESTIONED THEM, AND THEY HAVE PERFECT ALIBIS.
BESIDES, YOU'D HARDLY EXPECT ANY COURT TO TAKE SUCH NONSENSE AS EVIDENCE.
I TAKE IT SERIOUSLY...AND I'M SURE MY WIFE'S KILLERS WILL, TOO, BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH THEM, GOOD DAY, LIEUTENANT!
SOME DAYS LATER...
HEY, RANCE...THEY'RE LIKE A TRINKET WE PICKED UP AT THE KEYES' HOUSE. THINK IT'S A TRAP?
MAYBE...BUT WE HAVE A PERFECT ALIBI...AND WE CAN ALWAYS SAY WE FOUND THIS ONE. LET'S GO.
RARE CONGO AMULETS. WORTH FORTUNE TO OWNER IF HE CONTACTS M. SPEERETI, 3 CLAYTON ST.
PRESENTLY...
YOU THE GENT THAT SAID ONE OF THESE WAS WORTH A FORTUNE!
YES...BUT I HOPE MY LITTLE AD WASN'T MISLEADING. THAT AMULET IS VALUABLE ONLY BECAUSE IT IS PART OF A CHARM THAT GUARDS RANU AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS....A NATIVE CONGO IDOL. HE WHO WEARS IT MAY STEAL RANU WITHOUT HARM!
...AND I AM OFFERING $200,000 IF YOU BRING RANU TO ME. I WILL PAY FOR YOUR PASSAGE, AND ARRANGE TO HAVE SUPPLIES AND INSTRUCTIONS READY WHEN YOU REACH AFRICA.
TWO HUNDRED GRAND FOR A WOODEN STATUE? YOU GOT YOURSELF THREE DELIVERY BOYS, MISTER!
HA-HA! I KNEW THEIR GREED WOULD TRAP THEM! THE AMULET WON'T PROTECT THEM AGAINST RANU! NOTHING WILL. REST EASILY, MARIA. YOUR MURDERERS ARE SPEEDING TO THEIR DOOM!

WEEKS LATER, DEEP IN THE SWAMPLAND BORDERING THE CONGO...
I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS TRIP IS OVER. I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN LIVE IN A MUCK HOLE LIKE THIS!
QUIET, RANCE! I SEE RANU-- THROUGH THIS CLEARING!
ACCORDING TO THE INFO THAT GUY GAVE US, THE WITCH DOCTOR GUARDS RANU WITH HIS LIFE.
RANU...BWAMAY... ATTONAH...MY LIFE IS YOUR LIFE, RANU.
GOT HIM! FIRE OVER THEIR HEADS AND SCARE THEM AWAY!
BANG
SOME PEOPLE MIGHT CALL THIS BABY UGLY...BUT TO ME, HE'S THE PRETIEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN...200 GRAND WORTH OF PRETTY!
COME ON, STEVE. THE SOONER I GET OUT OF THIS PLACE, THE BETTER I LIKE IT.
I...I'M SCARED, RANCE. I GOT A LOOK AT ONE OF THOSE NATIVES AND HE WAS GRINNING. WH-WHY SHOULD HE SMILE?
MAYBE THEY DIDN'T LIKE THE WITCH DOCTOR AND ARE GLAD WE BUMPED HIM OFF.
RANU COME BACK.

HOURS LATER, AS THE DEEPENING JUNGLE SHADOWS CALL FORTH THE CRAWLING THINGS THAT DEAL IN SUDDEN DEATH...
HEY, FELLAS...WAIT FOR ME! THIS THING'S GETTING HEAVIER AND HEAVIER!
RANCE...COME BACK... IT...IT'S TANGLED IN A TREE!
WELL, UNTANGLE IT, AND COME ON. WE'LL WAIT HERE.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL... AAAAHHH...IT... IT'S.... HELP!
HE...HE GOT CAUGHT IN THEM HANDS! GET HIM DOWN... QUICK!
RANCE! HE... HE'S DEAD... STRANGLED...
WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE HAVE TO DO FIRST!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RANCE?
I'M GONNA ROAST THAT LITTLE WOODEN DEVIL TO ASHES! MAYBE I'M CRAZY BURNING TWO HUNDRED GRAND WORTH OF IDOL. BUT I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS JUNGLE ALIVE!

ALL RIGHT...LET'S GET MOVING NOW... FAST!

A LITTLE LATER...
RANCE...DO YOU HEAR IT? SOMETHING CRASHING BEHIND US. DO YOU THINK IT'S...
IT...IT'S AN ANIMAL! IT...IT'S GOTTA BE!

RANCE! I...I CAN'T PULL THE TRIGGER! I'M SCARED!

RANCE...HELP ME... HELP ME!!

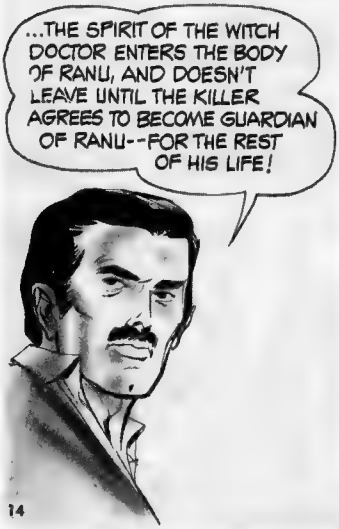
I...I.... ARRRGHH!

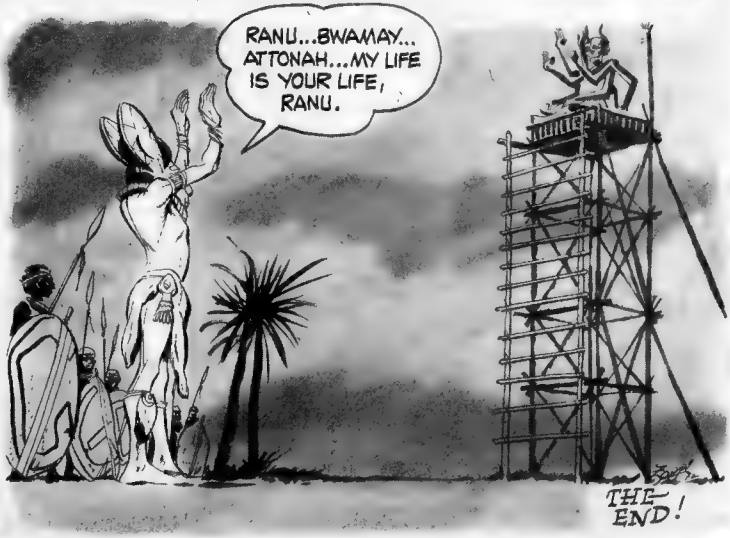
NO...NO...NO... DON'T KILL ME LIKE YOU DID THE OTHERS, ANYTHING...ONLY NOT THAT.

LEAD, RANU. I UNDERSTAND. I FOLLOW. WHEREEVER YOU GO, I WILL FOLLOW.

SOME WEEKS LATER, IN THE HOME OF JOHN KEYES...
I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT STEVE MADROGI AND MAC WILKINS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE JUNGLE... STRANGLED, MR. KEYES. YOU MADE A THREAT AWHILE BACK...
SO I DID. THE WAYS OF THE JUNGLE ARE STRANGE, LIEUTENANT...

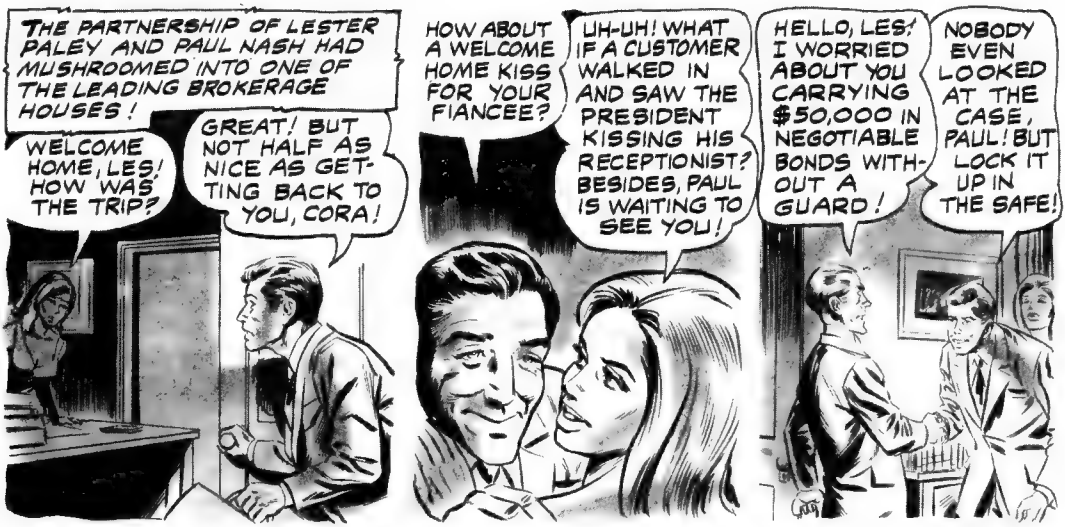
NATURALLY. I CAN'T CHARGE YOU WITH A THING, BUT I'M CURIOUS. THE REPORTS MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT AN IDOL NAMED RANU, BUT THE FATE OF RANCE IS UNKNOWN. WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED TO HIM?
I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT THE NATIVES BELIEVE THAT WHEN SOMEONE KILLS THE WITCH DOCTOR WHO GUARDS RANU...


...THE SPIRIT OF THE WITCH DOCTOR ENTERS THE BODY OF RANU, AND DOESN'T LEAVE UNTIL THE KILLER AGREES TO BECOME GUARDIAN OF RANU--FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!


RANU...BWAMAY... ATTONAH...MY LIFE IS YOUR LIFE, RANU.
THE END!

THE DEAD LIVE

CAN A HUMAN BEING CHEAT THE ELECTRIC CHAIR? THEY EXECUTED LES PALEY FOR A MURDER HE DID NOT COMMIT! THE THUNDERBOLTS OF JUSTICE LASHED HIS BODY UNTIL THE PRISON DOCTOR PRONOUNCED HIM DEAD!!!


THE PARTNERSHIP OF LESTER PALEY AND PAUL NASH HAD MUSHROOMED INTO ONE OF THE LEADING BROKERAGE HOUSES!
WELCOME HOME, LES! HOW WAS THE TRIP?
GREAT! BUT NOT HALF AS NICE AS GETTING BACK TO YOU, CORA!
HOW ABOUT A WELCOME HOME KISS FOR YOUR FIANCEE?
UH-UH! WHAT IF A CUSTOMER WALKED IN AND SAW THE PRESIDENT KISSING HIS RECEPTIONIST? BESIDES, PAUL IS WAITING TO SEE YOU!
HELLO, LES! I WORRIED ABOUT YOU CARRYING $50,000 IN NEGOTIABLE BONDS WITHOUT A GUARD!
NOBODY EVEN LOOKED AT THE CASE, PAUL! BUT LOCK IT UP IN THE SAFE!

AND PUT THIS GUN AWAY, TOO! I FEEL FUNNY CARRYING IT, EVEN THOUGH THE POLICE ADVISED ME TO... HUH?
WHA...? LES! LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!

Then...
NO! NO! ARE YOU INSANE?
WHO? ARRGHH!

STUNNED BY THE PAIN, LES FELT A PRESENCE THAT SNATCHED HIS FALLEN PISTOL!
DON'T! ARRGHH!

HIS MUSCLES WERE POWERLESS TO RESIST! STRONG HANDS SHOVED THE HOT GUN INTO HIS FINGERS!

THERE WAS ONE LAST EXPLOSION INSIDE LES PALEY'S SKULL...

LES PALEY WAS STILL UNCONSCIOUS WHEN CORA LANG'S SCREAMS BROUGHT A POLICEMAN!
OH...OH...
THIS IS A JOB FOR HOMICIDE! SHOW ME THE TELEPHONE, MISS!
LES CAME BACK TO ACHING CONSCIOSNESS... TO A WORLD OF NIGHT MARISH HORROR!
...AND I HEARD MR. NASH CRY "NO! NO! ARE YOU INSANE! DON'T!" I-I RAN IN AND SAW THEM L-LYING THERE!
HE'S COMING AROUND, INSPECTOR!
WHA...WHAT HAPPENED? SOMEBODY SHOT PAUL! IS... HE...
YOU SHOT HIM! YOU KILLED HIM WITH YOUR OWN GUN!
NO! I DIDN'T!
LES! LES! I BELIEVE YOU! YOU COULDN'T KILL PAUL!
LADY, SAVE IT!
LIKE A MAN IN A DREAM, LES STUMBLED THROUGH THE NIGHTMARE OF POLICE ROUTINE!
NO! NO! I DIDN'T KILL PAUL!
BUT HE WAS KILLED WITH YOUR GUN! THE PARRAFIN TEST PROVES YOU FIRED IT!
ONLY CORA VISITED LES IN JAIL AS HE AWAITED TRIAL!
I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING, DARLING!
THERE MUST BE A WAY...
THE CASE WAS RUSHED TO TRIAL!
...AND WHEN MY FIRM EXAMINED THE PALEY AND NASH BOOKS, WE FOUND A SHORTAGE OF $44,000 IN MR. PALEY'S ACCOUNT!
IT'S A DIRTY LIE! I NEVER TOOK A PENNY!
SIT DOWN!

HIS COURT-APPOINTED LAWYER BARELY MADE A DEFENSE! THE JURY TOOK LESS THAN TWO HOURS TO REACH A VERDICT!
WE, THE JURY FIND THE DEFENDANT, LESTER PALEY, GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE!
OH, NO!
YOU ARE TO DIE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 19... AND MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL!
AND ON YOUR CONSCIENCES FOR I AM INNOCENT!
BE BRAVE, DARLING! I'VE FOUND A THIN RAY OF HOPE!
THERE IS NO HOPE! I AM DOOMED!
ONE DAY...
NOW WHAT? CAN'T I AT LEAST DIE IN PEACE?
THE LAW SAYS I MUST EXAMINE THE CONDEMNED!
HURRY UP AND LEAVE ME! MUST I GET A BEAUTY TREATMENT, TOO?
THIS IS... ER... A CREAM TO HELP THE ELECTRICITY PENETRATE SWIFTLY!
YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE, PALEY! WHY DON'T YOU TELL US WHERE THAT MISSING $94,000 IS HIDDEN?
I DON'T KNOW! I'VE TOLD YOU I DIDN'T TAKE IT!
Then... A HUMAN BODY STRAINS AGAINST IT'S BONDS AS THE CURRENT SEARS LIVING FLESH!

I PRONOUNCE THIS MAN LEGALLY DEAD! THE UNDERTAKER CAN NOW HAVE HIM!
THE SELFISH LOUSE! HE TOOK $94,000 WITH HIM RATHER THAN GIVE IT BACK TO THE PEOPLE WHO TRUSTED HIM WITH THEIR MONEY!
HE'S ALL YOURS, MR. UNDERTAKER!
HE'S WORTH $250.00 THE STATE PAYS ME TO DISPOSE OF THOSE EXECUTED!

LESTER PALEY WAS LOST IN A WORLD OF BLACKNESS, KNOWING NOTHING OF HIS WEIRD RIDE AND THE STRANGE INCIDENTS THAT MARKED IT!
HURRY, MY DEAR! JUMP IN BEFORE SOME SNOOP SEES US!
DID EVERYTHING WORK OUT AS WE PLANNED? NO SLIP UPS?
THERE ARE ALWAYS SLIP-UPS...FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT PLAN THOROUGHLY!
THEN WE'RE ALL RIGHT! HURRY!

LES PALEY LAY IN AN INKY DARKNESS...UNTIL SUDDENLY A RAY OF LIGHT SPLIT THE DARK!
OHH!
WE HAVE SUCCEEDED! THE NEXT STEP IS YOURS!
I-I AM READY, BUT A LITTLE FRIGHTENED!
THE LIGHT SPREAD AND TO LES CAME A KIND OF DAZED CONSCIOUSNESS!
I..I'M ALIVE! BUT THEY KILLED ME!
HUSH, DARLING! ANSON LEMORT BROUGHT YOU BACK FROM THE DEAD!
YES, PALEY! YOU ARE MY FIRST SUCCESS! BUT SUCCESS IS NOT COMPLETE! YOU ARE NEITHER DEAD OR ALIVE!
I...FEEL SO ...ODD, CORA! YOU...YOU... DID THIS FOR ME?

BUT HE WAS ALIVE! HE STILL RESPONDED TO HIS UNCERTAIN WILL!
WE CAN BE TOGETHER ALWAYS IF YOU WILL OBEY!
AS LONG AS MY MACHINES ARE ON YOU WILL BE... IF NOT ALIVE... AT LEAST UNDEAD! IF I OPEN THIS SWITCH, NO POWER ON EARTH CAN REVIVE YOU!
DEAREST, I HAD TO BARGAIN! I PROMISED YOU WOULD OBEY ANSON LEMORT!
CORA, MY LOVE! I... I PROMISE WHATEVER I MUST DO TO SHARE YOUR LOVE!
THREE MEN MUST DIE, PALEY... THE JUDGE WHO SENTENCED YOU... THE EXECUTIONER, AND THE DOCTOR WHO PRONOUNCED YOU DEAD! THEY MUST DIE!
THEY... MUST... DIE...! I... UNDER-STAND!
OBEY HIM, DARLING! TONIGHT KILL THOSE THREE! THEN RETURN AND ENJOY ETERNITY WITH ME!
IF YOU FAIL, I'LL PULL THIS SWITCH AND YOU'LL BE DOOMED TO ETERNAL BLACKNESS!
REST NOW, LES, DEAR! WHEN NIGHT FALLS YOU CAN REPAY THE DEBT WE BOTH OWE LEMORT!
THESE WILL HELP YOU, PALEY! IF YOU OBEY, YOU MAY GAIN COMPLETE LIFE!
LES SWALLOWED THE PILLS AND FELL INTO A TROUBLED STUPOR THAT WAS NEITHER SLEEP NOR RELEASE! THEY WOKE HIM AT NIGHT-FALL
IT IS TIME, LES! KILL THE JUDGE FIRST... THEN THE DOCTOR!
IF YOU FAIL, PALEY, I'LL PULL THE SWITCH AND YOU DROP DEAD FOREVER!
NOTHING CAN HARM YOU, LES! THE LAW HAS ALREADY KILLED YOU!
MUST... STRANGLE ...JUDGE... THEN DOCTOR... THEN EXECUTIONER! NO ONE... CAN STOP ME!

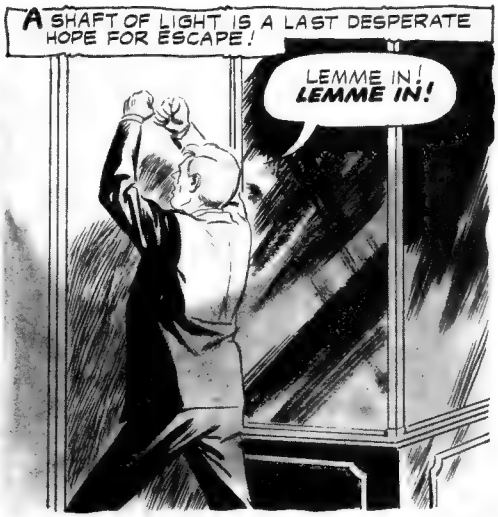
A HORROR CLAWED AT THE BACK OF LES'S MIND... BUT HE WAS POWERLESS AGAINST THE FORCE THAT RULED HIS BODY!
THE JUDGE! HE... IS LEAVING! CAN'T KILL HIM...
I WON'T BE LONG, DEAR! THE D.A. WANTS TO TALK OVER A CASE WITH ME!
I'LL... KILL DOCTOR... FIRST! THEN COME BACK HERE!
LOOK OUT! EEEEAAH!
AN INSTANT LATER...
I TRIED TO MISS HIM!
KEEP GOING! NOBODY SAW YOU AND YOU CAN'T HELP HIM NOW! HURRY!
WH-WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED? WH-WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
THE COMPREHENSION CAME TO HIM IN A SICKENING TIDE SWEEPING OVER HIM...
THE CHAIR... CORA... THAT LEMORT... NOW I REMEMBER! I'M SUPPOSED TO KILL THREE MEN! I WAS HEADING FOR THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE!
AM I DEAD OR ALIVE? I MUST KNOW! THE DOCTOR CAN TELL ME! HE MUST KNOW!
M.D.
YOU! NO! NO! GET AWAY! I WAS INSANE TO TAKE THE MONEY! I'M GOING TO CONFESS!
MONEY? CONFESS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ANSWER ME... AM I REALLY DEAD?
NO... BUT YOU SHOULD BE! YOUR HEART WAS WEAK! I THOUGHT EVEN THE MILD SHOCK WOULD KILL YOU!
TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY!
THEY PAID US $5,000 EACH... THE EXECUTIONER TO GIVE YOU A SHOCK ONLY TO STUN YOU--ME TO LIE AND SWEAR YOU WERE DEAD!
THEY SWORE YOU WERE INNOCENT... SWORE ALL THEY WANTED WAS TO SAVE YOU UNTIL THEY GOT THE EVIDENCE!
AND I WAS TO BE THEIR TOOL... MY WILL WAS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO GO AGAINST THEM! THOSE MACHINES!
FAKES! A LIGHT TO HYPNOTIZE YOU... DRUGS TO DULL YOUR WILL! HE WANTED US DEAD FOR FEAR WE'D TALK!
THEN I'M ALIVE... BUT I'M DEAD BY LAW! I CAN KILL WITHOUT BEING PUNISHED!
I SEE IT ALL NOW! I'D KILL FOR THEM AND THEY'D BE BE FREE TO CREATE OTHER HELPLESS VICTIMS!
AT THAT MOMENT...
HE MUST'VE ALREADY THROTTLED THAT MEDDLING JUDGE! HE'S PROBABLY STALKING THE DOCTOR NOW...
SOON WE'LL HAVE AN ARMY OF DUPES LIKE HIM LOOTING THE CITY FOR US!
YES, MY DEARLY BELOVED... I'LL KILL! AND THANKS TO YOU TWO I CAN NEVER PAY THE PENALTY!
EEEEEK! L-LES! ANSOM... DO SOMETHING! HIS WILL IS FREED!

STALL HIM!
YOU MURDERED PAUL AND TOOK THE $50,000 IN BONDS!
YES, AND I EMBEZZLED THE $40,000 FROM YOUR ACCOUNTS!
LESTER PALEY SPRANG WILDLY... HIS SHAKING HANDS CLOSING ON HER THROAT!
YUGHH-H! ANSON-- S-SAVE ME!
I THINK NOT, MY DEAR! I CAN BLAME THIS ALL ON YOU NOW AND SAVE MYSELF AND THE MONEY AS WELL!
THANKS FOR ELIMINATING HER, PALEY! NOW I CAN KILL YOU... REALLY KILL YOU... IN SELF DEFENSE! SHE BRIBED THOSE OTHERS! I'M CLEAR!
CORA IS DEAD... I'M DEAD... NOW YOU WILL DIE!
EEEAH! DROP I SAY! YOU'RE DEAD!
AND YOU'LL JOIN ME IN DEATH!
AGH-AGH-AGH!
DIE! DIE!
THE SHOTS AND SCREAMS BROUGHT THE POLICE...
YOU MEAN THIS GUY HAD NINE SLUGS IN HIS CHEST AND STILL CHOKED THE OTHER ONE TO DEATH?
THAT--AND WORSE, CASSIDY! THIS IS LESTER PALEY!
THE GUY WHO WAS BURNED LAST NIGHT? YOU'RE NUTS!
IT MUST BE... BECAUSE ACCORDING TO MEDICAL EVIDENCE, THIS MAN HAS BEEN DEAD FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS!
THE END

the VAMPIRE MONSTER TRAP

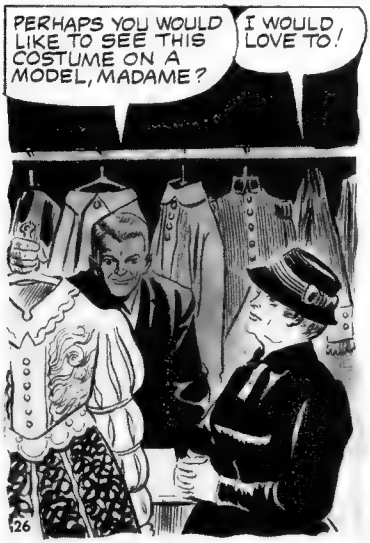
"OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE" IS AN OLD WARNING NO ONE SHOULD IGNORE... NOT EVEN A... MURDERER!


A SHAFT OF LIGHT IS A LAST DESPERATE HOPE FOR ESCAPE!
LEMME IN! LEMME IN!

YOU MAY ENTER... IF YOU LIKE!

I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT--BUT HIDE ME FROM THE COPS!
IF YOU MEAN THAT, I'LL HELP YOU!

EVERY DAY THE MURDERER LURES A VICTIM FOR THE GHASTLY COLLECTION! IT WAS ALL SO EASY TO BEGIN WITH...



BUT BLOODY DEEDS CANNOT BE WASHED AWAY BY SLEEP!
YOU WILL JOIN US, SOON MY FRIEND!
THE NIGHTMARES CONTINUED...AND A WEEK LATER...
I CAN'T GO ON! THEY WON'T LET ME FORGET!
YOU SAID YOU WOULD DO ANYTHING! HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND ALREADY?
I'M NOT A WELCHER-- I-- I'LL GO ON!

HAVE YOU ANY PIRATE COSTUMES?
W-WAIT A MINUTE... I'LL G-GO AND S-SEE!

ONE OF THEM'S COME BACK! HE'S DRIPPING WAX ALL OVER THE FLOOR!
RUBBISH! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS AGAIN... THERE'S NOTHING HERE!

THIS IS THE LAST STRAW! I'VE GOT TO STOP BEFORE I GO CRAZY! I'M THROUGH... FINISHED! GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK!
WE MADE A BARGAIN--

YES...

...AND THIS IS THE END OF IT!

BLAM! BLAM!

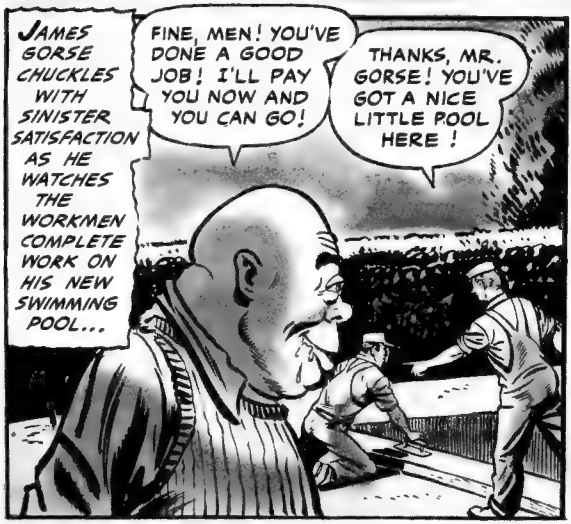
YOU WERE THE LAST ONE FOR MY COLLECTION! NOW I... CAN DIE... HAPPY...

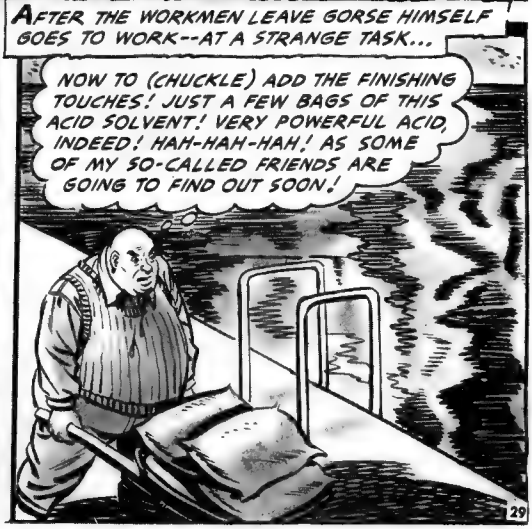
AYEEEE!

WE WERE EXPECTING YOU!
THE END

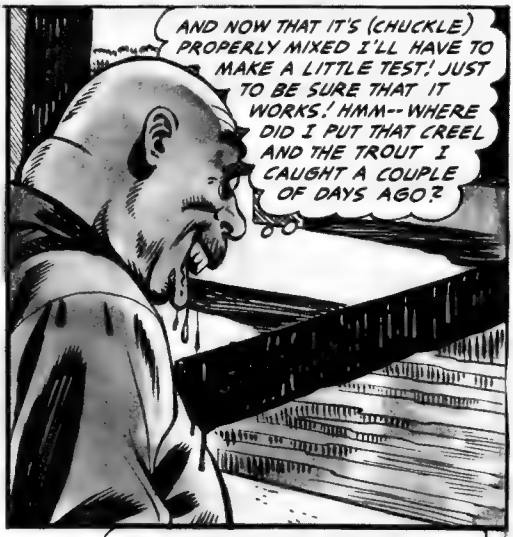
HERE WAS A PLAN FOR REVENGE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVENTED BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF! EVIL, DIABOLICAL, UTTERLY WITHOUT MERCY, JAMES GORSE SCHEMED TO KILL THOSE WHO, IN HIS FANTASTICALLY WARPED MIND, HE THOUGHT HAD HARMED HIM! CUNNINGLY HE PREPARED HIS DEADLY TRAP---

The MURDER POOL





AS GORSE POURS THE POWDERED ACID INTO THE POOL THE WATER TURNS TO A WEIRD AND SINISTER SCARLET--THE COLOR OF BLOOD...
HAH-HAH! VERY APPROPRIATE COLOR! JUST LIKE BLOOD! THEIR BLOOD--THE BLOOD OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SCORNED AND INSULTED ME ALL THESE YEARS!


AND NOW THAT IT'S (CHUCKLE) PROPERLY MIXED I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A LITTLE TEST! JUST TO BE SURE THAT IT WORKS! HMM--WHERE DID I PUT THAT CREEL AND THE TROUT I CAUGHT A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO?

HERE WE ARE! NOW I'LL SOON KNOW IF THE RESULTS ARE WHAT I'VE HOPED FOR! AND I MUST HAVE PERFECTION, NOTHING LESS!

I'LL JUST DIP THE FISH INTO THE POOL, BEING VERY CAREFUL! HAH--VERY CAREFUL INDEED! I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO FALL INTO IT! I'LL ADMIT I'VE GOT A LOT OF FLESH ON ME, BUT IF I FELL IN I'D BE A LOT (HAH--HAH) THINNER!

THERE! AND IT SHOULD TAKE JUST ONE IMMERSION! THIS STUFF IS SUPPOSED TO ACT IN ABOUT THREE SECONDS FLAT! NOW--IT'S BEEN IN LONG ENOUGH!

AFTER A SECOND OR TWO GORSE PULLS UP THE FISH! BUT NOW IT IS A--SKELETON...
HO-HO! WORKS PERFECTLY! NOT A SHRED OF FLESH LEFT ON IT! THE ACID DESTROYS TISSUE ALMOST INSTANTLY! AND NOW TO GET ON WITH THE REST OF MY PLAN!

GORSE MAKES A SERIES OF TELEPHONE CALLS...
HELLO, GWEN! HOW ABOUT COMING OVER FOR A SWIM IN MY NEW POOL? BE A LOT OF FUN!
NOW, YOU KNOW I'M NOT, ER, INTERESTED IN YOU! W-WHAT? A SCREEN TEST? WELL, MAYBE...
LATER...
CANDY? IMAGINE WHO JUST CALLED ME--THAT FAT FOOL OF A JIM GORSE! WANTS ME TO COME SWIMMING AT HIS POOL! BUT YOU KNOW HOW I HATE HIM! BUT HE PROMISED TO...
GET ME A SCREEN TEST! HE CAN DO IT, TOO! WHAT WOULD YOU DO, CANDY?
TAKE A CHANCE, HONEY! AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN HAPPEN? YOU CAN ALWAYS LEAVE IF HE GETS SMART! AND A TEST IS A TEST!
SO A LITTLE LATER...
HELLO, MR. GORSE! HERE I AM--BUT REMEMBER, NO MONKEY BUSINESS! IF YOU CAN GET ME A TEST I'LL BE VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU, BUT I DON'T LOVE YOU AND I WILL NEVER MARRY YOU!
NOW, GWEN, LET'S FORGET OUR LITTLE SQUABBLE! JUST TAKE A NICE SWIM! I WON'T BOTHER YOU AT ALL!
HMM--MAYBE JIM MEANS IT THIS TIME! I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM ACT SO NICE BEFORE! MAYBE HE IS SORRY HE TREATED ME THE WAY HE DID!
THANK YOU, JIM, FOR ASKING ME TO SWIM. BUT WHAT MAKES THE WATER LOOK SO FUNNY? SO RED?
THAT? OH, THAT'S JUST AN IDEA OF MINE TO MAKE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE! AT NIGHT, WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE ON, IT LOOKS REAL PRETTY! BUT GO AHEAD NOW AND HAVE YOUR SWIM!
WELL, HERE GOES! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD A NICE REFRESHING SWIM!
ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN, BABY! I'LL (CHUCKLE) GUARANTEE YOU ONE THING-- IT WON'T LAST LONG!
A FEW SECONDS LATER SOMETHING FLOATS TO THE SURFACE OF THE BLOODY POOL! A GRINNING SKULL...
HAH-HAH! SHE DOESN'T LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL NOW! JUST BONES WHERE ALL THAT LOVELY SKIN USED TO BE! SHE CALLED ME A STUPID FAT FOOL ONCE--AND NOW LOOK AT HER!

GORSE HAS PLANNED HIS PHONE CALLS CAREFULLY! AS DARKNESS FALLS ANOTHER GUEST MAKES AN APPEARANCE...
WELL, GORSE, WHAT DO YOU WANT? WE AREN'T EXACTLY FRIENDS, YOU KNOW!
NOW, FRED! LET BYGONES BE BYGONES! I FORGIVE YOU FOR THAT TIME YOU CHEATED ME ON THE STOCK MARKET!
SO I WANT TO BE FRIENDS! WE'LL FORGET THE PAST! AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE WHY NOT TAKE A SWIM IN MY NEW POOL? IT'S SO HOT TONIGHT!
IT IS HOT, AT THAT! AND I COULD USE A DIP! BUT DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO BE YOUR FRIEND, GORSE!
YOU CHEATED ME, REMEMBER! NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND! IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO TRY AND TWIST IT TO SUIT YOU! SO I'LL JUST HAVE MY SWIM AND SAY GOODBYE!
OKAY, FRED, OKAY! IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL, GO AHEAD AND ENJOY YOURSELF!
ALL RIGHT, FATSO! AGREED! I'LL USE YOUR CRUMMY SWIMMING POOL THIS ONCE! THAT'S THE ONLY THING I'LL EVER GET OUT OF YOU!
DON'T YOU WISH YOU COULD DIVE LIKE THIS, GORSE! THEN MAYBE SOME OF THE PRETTY GIRLS WOULD GIVE YOU A BREAK!
GO AHEAD, ROMEO! SHOW ME YOUR PRETTY MUSCLES! SHOW ME HOW GOOD YOU ARE!
AGAIN A GRISLY SKULL FLOATS TO THE SURFACE OF THE SINISTER POOL...
OH, HO-HO-HO! LOOK AT HIM NOW! HEE-HEE-HEE! JUST LOOK AT HIS BEAUTIFUL SMOOTH MUSCLES NOW! WONDER WHAT THE (CHUCKLE) GIRLS WOULD THINK OF HIM!

STILL LATER, WHEN AGAIN THE POOL HAS BEEN EMPTIED OF ITS GRUESOME CONTENTS...
WELL, JAMES, WHAT IS IT? WHAT DEVILRY ARE YOU UP TO NOW? I HAVEN'T BEEN YOUR WIFE FOR 20 YEARS FOR NOTHING! BUT REMEMBER I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!
JANET! WHAT A WAY TO TALK TO A HUSBAND WHO STILL LOVES YOU! I SIMPLY ASKED YOU OVER FOR A LITTLE CHAT!
AND FOR A LITTLE SWIM, PERHAPS! YOU HAVE SUCH A LOVELY FIGURE, YOU KNOW! I'VE ALWAYS (CHUCKLE) ADMIRED IT!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, JIM! STILL NASTY AND SARCASTIC! BUT I HAVEN'T CHANGED EITHER! SO IF YOU STILL WANT THAT DIVORCE THE ANSWER IS--NO!
SUDDENLY SHE REACHES INTO HER BAG, AND...
AS A MATTER OF FACT, JIM, I WENT TO THE DOCTOR TODAY! I'VE ONLY GOT THREE MONTHS TO LIVE! BUT BEFORE I DIE I'M GOING TO RID THE WORLD OF A SCOUNDREL...
HUH! NO, JANET, YOU FOOL! D-DON'T! I DIDN'T MEAN...
BUT I MEAN IT, JIM! IF EVER A MAN NEEDED KILLING YOU DO! AND I'LL NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GO TO THE GAS CHAMBER!
YAAAAA! THE POOL! FALLING INTO IT--- AIEEEEE!
AS THE WOMAN STEPS CLOSER TO PEER INTO THE SCARLET POOL...
OH, M-MY HEART! ANOTHER ATTACK! I--FALLING ...EVERYTHING GOING BLACK!
SLOWLY THEY RISE TO THE SURFACE, TWO SPECTRAL SWIMMERS, THEIR BONY ARMS THRESHING THE BLOOD RED WATER! AS THE MOON RISES IN THE EAST A LITTLE WIND SPRINGS UP AND KEENS A DIRGE THROUGH THE TREES BESIDE THE POOL, A SONG OF HATE AND MURDER AND A TERRIBLE RETRIBUTION...
THE SKULLS, MOVED BY THE GENTLE URGING OF THE WAVELETS, MOVE CLOSER TOGETHER UNTIL THEY COME TO REST IN EACH OTHERS ARMS! LOVERS IN DEATH AS, ONCE THEY WERE IN LIFE!
The End

THE SILVER DEMON

BECAUSE OF MY WITCH POWERS I AM NOT YET DEAD! CUT ME DOWN FROM THE HANGROPE, AND MAKE FROM THE SILVER OF THE EXECUTION BELL, A COFFIN AND PLACE ME IN IT!
YES, YES, DOLORES! I WILL DO AS YOU SAY!

LATER...
THIS WOODEN CLUB WILL GET ENRIQUE, THE EXECUTIONER OUT OF THE WAY! WITH THE NOISE OF THE STORM, HE WILL NOT HEAR ME! IT WILL BE EASY!

... I HIT HIM TOO HARD... HE'S DEAD! ANYWAY, I'VE AVENGED DOLORES!... AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!

UGH! LOOK WHAT BEING HANGED HAS DONE TO HER! PERHAPS THAT VISION IN FLAME WAS JUST A TRICK OF THE MIND!

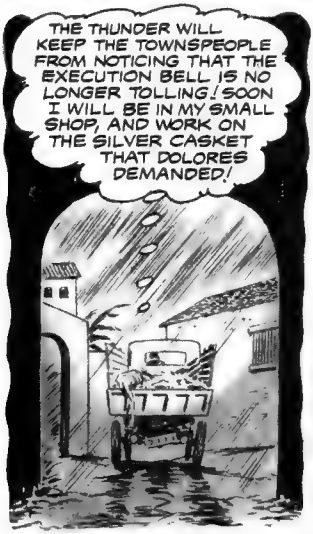
HOW CAN I POSSIBLY BREAK UP THAT SOLID SILVER BELL? AND IF I COULD, HOW WOULD I TRANSPORT IT TO MY SHOP?

THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO LUIS' QUESTION...
A LIGHTENING BOLT HAS SHATTERED THE BELL!
CRACK!

WHAT? A MIRACLE!! THE PIECES OF SILVER HAVE BEEN FORMED INTO INGOTS AND STACKED! BUT I STILL HAVE NO WAY OF GETTING THAT LOAD OF SILVER TO MY BASEMENT SHOP!

THE TRUCK, LUIS, THE TRUCK! HIDDEN IN THE SHADOW OF THE ARCH!
WHAT TRUCK? I SWEAR I HEARD A VOICE!

THERE IS A TRUCK HIDDEN HERE IN THE SHADOW OF THE ARCH! AND THE KEYS ARE IN THE IGNITION!


THE THUNDER WILL KEEP THE TOWNSPEOPLE FROM NOTICING THAT THE EXECUTION BELL IS NO LONGER TOLLING! SOON I WILL BE IN MY SMALL SHOP, AND WORK ON THE SILVER CASKET THAT DOLORES DEMANDED!
7777

LATER, IN THE BASEMENT OF THE BUILDING WHERE LUIS LIVED...
THE SILVER CASKET IS COMPLETED, AND THE CORPSE PLACED INSIDE IT! AH! MY BELOVED, AS SHE LOOKED IN LIFE!

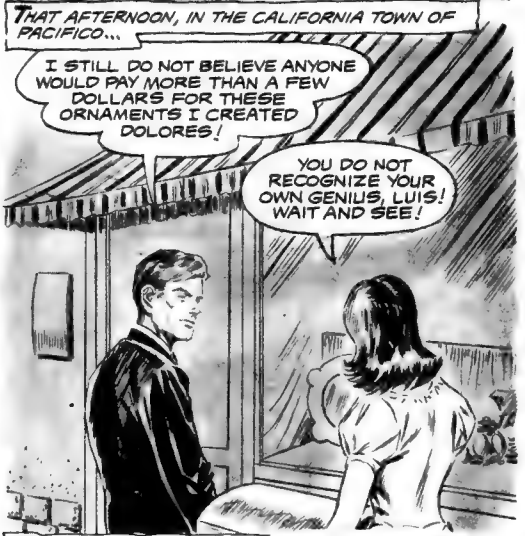
LUIS! USE THE REST OF THE SILVER INGOTS TO FASHION AS MANY ODD AND UNUSUAL ORNAMENTS AS POSSIBLE BEFORE DAWN!
SI, DOLORES!

THIS STATUE OF AN EVIL DEMON, MADE FROM THE LAST SILVER INGOT FROM THE EXECUTION BELL IS THE BEST THING I'VE FASHIONED TONIGHT! BUT OF WHAT PURPOSE HAS THIS BEEN?

A SOUND BEHIND ME! WHAT! THE COFFIN LID MOVES! AND THAT GHASTLY HAND!

DOLORES! YOU'RE ALIVE AND MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN BEFORE!
YES, LUIS! YOU HAVE DONE YOUR WORK WELL! NOW, HURRY! PACK THE ORNAMENTS IN A TRUNK! WE MUST LEAVE THE TOWN BEFORE THE LIGHT OF DAWN!

YOUR SAVINGS WILL BE ENOUGH TO PAY FOR THE CHARTER OF A SMALL PLANE TO CALIFORNIA! THERE WE WILL BE FOREVER SAFE!
YOU ARE SO CLEVER, DOLORES! AND SO BEAUTIFUL, ONCE AGAIN THAT I WOULD DO ANYTHING YOU COMMAND!


THAT AFTERNOON, IN THE CALIFORNIA TOWN OF PACIFICO...
I STILL DO NOT BELIEVE ANYONE WOULD PAY MORE THAN A FEW DOLLARS FOR THESE ORNAMENTS I CREATED DOLORES!
YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN GENIUS, LUIS! WAIT AND SEE!

SUCH CRAFTSMANSHIP! A WORK OF GENIUS! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH HIGH QUALITY SILVER! WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
SEÑOR MARTINECK! NAME YOUR PRICE! WE'VE NO TIME TO WASTE!

AFTER MUCH HAGGLING...
EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS STILL ISN'T ENOUGH! LUIS, PACK UP THE ORNAMENTS!
NO, NO, SEÑORITA! I MUST HAVE THESE PIECES! I MAKE ONE FINAL OFFER--$10,000!

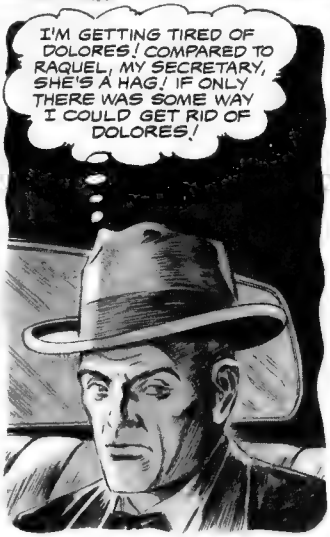
WE INSIST ON KEEPING THIS ONE OBJECT! LUIS, THIS SILVER DEMON HAS SPECIAL POWERS TO BRING US GOOD FORTUNE, IF IT IS NEVER SOLD OR DESTROYED!
...AGREED!

DOLORES, WE ARE RICH! LET US GET MARRIED AT ONCE!
YES, LUIS! BUT WE'LL USE THE MONEY TO SET UP A SMART SILVER-SMITH'S SHOP! WE WILL BE WEALTHY BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS!

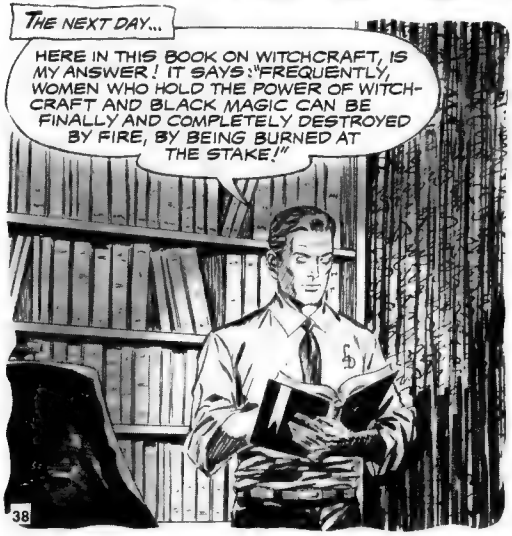
A SHORT WHILE LATER...
I AM ACHING WITH HAPPINESS! SUCH A BIG AND SPLENDID SHOP!
WAIT UNTIL PEOPLE HAVE SEEN YOUR FINE WORK AND YOUR REPUTATION SPREADS! A FEW MONTHS FROM NOW, YOU WILL HAVE A LARGER SHOP!
Luis Diego
SILVER SMITH

DOLORES' PREDICTIONS PROVED TRUE WITHIN THE YEAR...
EVENING, SEÑOR DIEGO!
TO THE COUNTRY CLUB, PEDRO!

BUT WITH THEIR NEW INFLUENCE, LUIS BECAME ARROGANT, CONCEITED! HE AND DOLORES QUARRELED FREQUENTLY...
YOU'VE CHANGED SO! YOU NO LONGER TAKE ME ANYWHERE!
YOU HAVE BECOME A SHREW, ALWAYS HARPING AT ME! I'M GOING OUT!


I'M GETTING TIRED OF DOLORES! COMPARED TO RAQUEL, MY SECRETARY, SHE'S A HAG! IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY I COULD GET RID OF DOLORES!

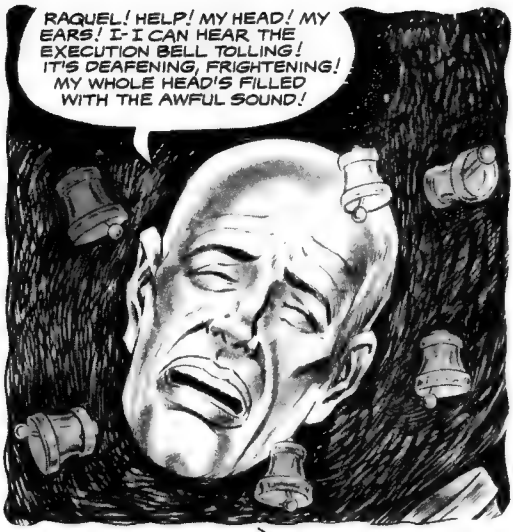
LUIS, YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT DOLORES!
SI, RAQUEL, DARLING! OUR LOVE GROWS STRONGER EACH DAY! I WILL THINK OF SOME WAY TO GET RID OF MY WIFE, TOMORROW!


THE NEXT DAY...
HERE IN THIS BOOK ON WITCHCRAFT, IS MY ANSWER! IT SAYS: "FREQUENTLY, WOMEN WHO HOLD THE POWER OF WITCHCRAFT AND BLACK MAGIC CAN BE FINALLY AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY FIRE, BY BEING BURNED AT THE STAKE!"

LUIS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LUIS! UNTIE ME!
SHUT UP, CONNIVING LITTLE WITCH! I WILL SOON DO WHAT ENRIQUE THE HANGMAN FAILED TO DO-- COMPLETELY DESTROY YOUR BLACK-HEARTED BEAUTY!

YOU ARE PLANNING TO BURN ME! NO! NO! LUIS!
BUT YES, WITCHWOMAN! THEN I WILL BE FREE OF YOU! THIS KEROSENE WILL CREATE A FIRE LIKE ALL THE FLAMES IN HADES!
THE FIRE HAS SPREAD FASTER THAN I ANTICIPATED! IF I DON'T GET OUT OF THE HOUSE IN A HURRY, THE WHOLE PLACE WILL BE A FIERY TRAP!
AIIIYEEE! THE FLAMES ARE SEARING THROUGH THE CEILING ALREADY! BUT I HAD TO STOP AND SAVE THIS LUCKY SILVER DEMON!
CEILING CAVED IN! OOOOOOH!
CRASH
IT'S MR. DIEGO, THE OWNER OF THE HOUSE! HE ESCAPED FROM THE FIRE!
DOLORES DIED IN THE FIRE! LUIS DIEGO LIVED, BUT REMAINED IN A COMA FOR SEVERAL WEEKS! FINALLY...
THE BRAIN OPERATION AND A SILVER PLATE IN HIS SKULL, AFTERWARD, IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE CHANCE FOR HIS RECOVERY, RAQUEL! HE'S GETTING WEAKER EVERY DAY!
LUIS MUST LIVE! I GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO MAKE THE OPERATION-- WITH ONE CONDITION!
THE SILVER FROM THIS LUCKY PIECE OF LUIS' MUST BE USED FOR THE PLATE! IT IS THE FINEST SILVER THAT MONEY CAN BUY! I WILL HAVE LUIS' BEST CRAFTSMAN MELT IT DOWN AND FASHION THE PLATE TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS!
I SEE NO OBJECTION TO THAT!

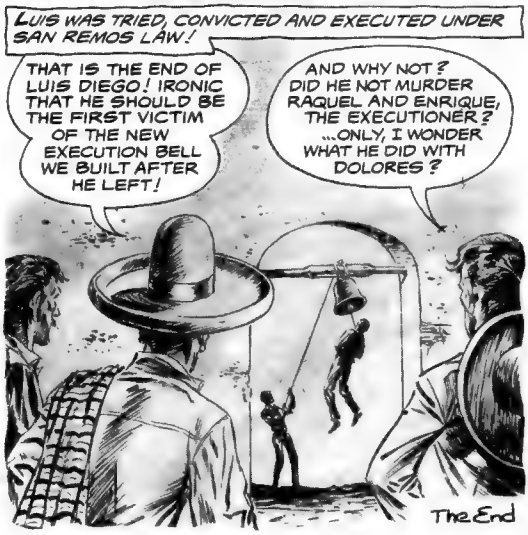
RAQUEL TOOK THE AILING LUIS BACK TO SAN REMOS TO RECUPERATE!
NOW THAT YOU'RE HOME AGAIN, LUIS, A LITTLE REST AND GOOD CARE WILL MAKE YOU AS GOOD AS NEW!
I-I'M NOT SO SURE, RAQUEL! I-I FEEL SO STRANGE! MY HEAD BUZZES AND ACHES AND I HEAR WEIRD SOUNDS!


RAQUEL! HELP! MY HEAD! MY EARS! I-I CAN HEAR THE EXECUTION BELL TOLLING! IT'S DEAFENING, FRIGHTENING! MY WHOLE HEAD'S FILLED WITH THE AWFUL SOUND!

EASY, LUIS! YOU JUST IMAGINE ALL THAT!
NO, NO! I CAN ALSO HEAR THE AGONIZED CRIES OF THE TORTURED SOULS WHO'VE BEEN HUNG FROM THAT CURSED BELL! YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE DESTROYED IT! I-I EVEN SEE THEM, COME BACK FROM THE GRAVE TO GET ME!

IT MUST BE THE PLATE IN YOUR HEAD, LUIS! I HAD IT MADE FROM THE SILVER DEMON!
WHAT? YOU DESTROYED THE GOOD LUCK DEMON? NO WONDER IT PRESSES MY BRAIN--CAUSES THE AGONY OF THE DAMNED!

IT'S YOUR FAULT I HEAR THOSE CURSED BELLS, I WILL NEVER HAVE PEACE! FOR DOING THIS TO ME, YOU MUST DIE! DIE!
HE'S MURDERING HER! CALL THE POLICE!


LUIS WAS TRIED, CONVICTED AND EXECUTED UNDER SAN REMOS LAW!
THAT IS THE END OF LUIS DIEGO! IRONIC THAT HE SHOULD BE THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE NEW EXECUTION BELL WE BUILT AFTER HE LEFT!
AND WHY NOT? DID HE NOT MURDER RAQUEL AND ENRIQUE, THE EXECUTIONER? ...ONLY, I WONDER WHAT HE DID WITH DOLORES?
The End

YOU'RE AN **ELDERLY** AND ECCENTRIC... A RECLUSE... BUT YOU'VE GOT **MONEY**, AND WHAT'S MORE YOU'VE GOT A **YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL WIFE!** AND THAT'S ALL YOU WANT IN THIS SWAMP WILDERNESS, BUT HUBERT KRANZ... YOU'RE IN FOR A...

NIGHT OF TERROR

BUT WHEN JED, YOUR CARETAKER WALKS INTO THE HOUSE YOU SEE WHY YOU MUST BELIEVE IT! HE'S YOUNG... YOU'RE OLD! HE'S DESIRABLE... YOU'RE UGLY! JUST THE THREE OF YOU HERE... ALL ALONE IN THIS SWAMP--AND NOW YOUR HEARING'S GONE!!
DOROTHY KISSES YOU... SHE'S TRYING TO TELL YOU SHE'S SORRY AND YOUR HEART MELTS AT HER TOUCH...
SHE MUST HAVE LOVED YOU TO MARRY YOU! YOU TELL YOURSELF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR MONEY, BUT FOR YOU! IT HAD TO BE AN ACCIDENT! SO YOU FORGET ABOUT IT! WHEN DINNER IS SERVED YOU ALWAYS FORGET ABOUT UNPLEASANT THINGS...
PERHAPS YOU HAVE BEEN TOO HARD ON THE POOR DEAR THING! YOU'LL MAKE IT UP TO HER AS SOON AS YOU FINISH YOUR MEAL...
BUT...
THAT ODOR WAS TOO UNMISTAKABLE TO MISS! THAT TASTE WAS TOO HORRIBLE TO IGNORE! YOU ALL DASH INTO THE KITCHEN! ...
--RAT POISON! THE CAT SPILLED IT INTO THE SOUP-KETTLE!

IT'S FUNNY! HA, HA... VERY FUNNY! ONLY JED AND DOROTHY DIDN'T EAT THEIR SOUP! YES... FUNNY THAT RAT POISON SHOULD BE RESTING OVER A SOUP-KETTLE! FUNNY, AND SOMETHING ELSE!
BUT YOU PUSH THAT OTHER THOUGHT OUT OF YOUR MIND, AS SHE KISSES YOU, YOU'RE TIRED AND YOU'D LIKE TO REST... DOROTHY CLEARS THE TABLE AND DECIDES TO READ BEFORE RETIRING! JED RETIRES TO HIS OWN QUARTERS...
BUT THAT NASTY THOUGHT MADE YOU TURN AROUND! YOU WISH YOU NEVER DID!
WELL-- NOW YOU KNOW! BOTH OF THEM ARE TO BLAME! BOTH OF THEM HAVE BETRAYED YOU! THEY'RE PLANNING TO KILL YOU! YES... ADMIT IT... ADMIT IT!
YOU FALL ASLEEP WITH THEIR TAUNTING LAUGHTER STILL INSIDE YOUR HEAD! THAT NEXT MORNING, YOU DECIDE TO SPEAK TO DOROTHY--TO ASK HER WHAT WENT WRONG BETWEEN YOU... YOU SEE HER OUTSIDE-- IN THE GARDEN...
BUT, AS YOU PASS BENEATH THE MANSION ROOF, YOU LOOK UP...

THEY COME RUNNING TO YOU--OH, SO CONCERNED! LOOK AT THEM--LOOK AT THEIR ANXIOUS FACES...

YOU WANT TO CHOKE THEM BOTH, BUT YOU CONTROL YOURSELF AND EVEN AS YOU TURN YOUR BACK TO GO INSIDE YOU THINK YOU SEE THEM SMILE...

TWICE THEY'VE FAILED! THE THIRD TIME THEY MIGHT SUCCEED! YOU KNOW YOU COULD KILL JED WITH YOUR FISTS, BUT YOU CAN'T BEAT A GUN! THOSE ARE YOUR THOUGHTS AS YOU WATCH HIM ROW AWAY TO TOWN...

DOROTHY... WHERE DID I FAIL YOU? WHY DO YOU HATE ME SO? AM I THAT OLD AND UGLY? AM I? AM I?

THE HOURS DRAG BY AND YOU LOCK YOURSELF IN YOUR ROOM! BUT FROM YOUR WINDOW THAT NIGHT, YOU'VE SEEN SOMEONE APPROACH... SOMEONE WITH A PACKAGE UNDER HIS ARM...

YES... IT'S JED! AND HE'S GOT THE GUN! YOU SNEAK DOWNSTAIRS, AND THEY DON'T NOTICE YOU AT ALL...

...AND YOU PICK UP THAT "HEAVY POKER...

...AND YOU CREEP UP RIGHT BEHIND THEM...

--AND YOU BEAR DOWN WITH IT HARD--VERY HARD--VERY, VERY HARD--

---AND YOU TEAR AT THE PACKAGE, GLOATING--- PLANNING TO HURL IT INTO THE SWAMP ONCE YOU'VE SEEN IT...ONCE YOU'VE SEEN THAT---

...THAT...THAT HEARING AID!
To my dear Husband on our first wedding anniversary... Your loving wife Dorothy

I GUESS YOU WERE WRONG, HUBERT KRANZ!
THE END

GHOUL WITHOUT POCKETS

H-HUMAN FINGERS... EARS... TEETH! NO WONDER THE MEN WHO LIVE HERE ONLY LEAVE AFTER MIDNIGHT! THEY'RE GHOULS!
FILLED WITH HORROR, SUDDENLY QUAGG HEARS...
THE DOOR CLOSED! THEY MUST BE BACK!
SLAM
THEY WON'T BE EXPECTING ANYONE HERE! MAYBE I'LL BE SAFE IN THIS CLOSET!
INSIDE THE MUSTY CLOSET QUAGG HEARS FOOTSTEPS AND MUFFLED VOICES... NO ONE REACHES FOR THE CLOSET DOOR... BUT THEN THE DUST IN THE CLOSET IRRITATES QUAGG'S NOSTRILS... AND...
HA-CHOO
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! HE MUST BE A POLICE SPY!
I-I'M NO STOOLIE... HONEST! I'M JUST A DIP! I LIFTED THIS KEY FROM ONE OF YOUR POCKETS... COULDN'T RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO USE IT! L-LET ME GO... I'LL NEVER TELL WHAT I SAW HERE!
YOU SAY YOU'RE A PICKPOCKET? WELL, I HAVE THE PERFECT WAY FOR YOU TO PROVE IT... AND IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL NEVER TELL ANYONE ANYTHING AGAIN!

THE NEXT DAY, QUAGG LOCATES THE HOUSE...
IT'S IN AN OUT-OF-THE WAY SECTION--BUT THAT MIGHT MAKE THE JOB EVEN EASIER! IT LOOKS KIND OF RUN-DOWN ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT I'M INTERESTED IN WHAT'S INSIDE!
FOR HOURS, QUAGG WATCHES THE HOUSE AND AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT THE LIGHTS GO OFF AND FOUR SHADOWY MEN EMERGE...
THERE! THE DOOR'S LOCKED AND I WON'T LOSE MY KEY!
ALL RIGHT! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH ABOUT MY LOST KEY! I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED TO IT!
I HOPE NO ONE FOUND IT! THERE ARE VALUABLE THINGS INSIDE!
EVEN IF SOMEONE FOUND THE KEY THEY'RE NOT THE SORT OF THINGS ANYONE IS LIKELY TO STEAL!
FOR TWO NIGHTS QUAGG WATCHES THE HOUSE AND EACH NIGHT THE ROUTINE IS THE SAME...
TWELVE O'CLOCK AND HERE THEY COME! THIS TIME AS SOON AS THEY'RE OUT OF SIGHT... IN I GO!
THE OLD DOOR CREAKS, OPENS AND QUAGG'S FOOTSTEPS ECHO THROUGH THE MUSTY, SILENT BUILDING! HIS FLASHLIGHT SEARCHES EMPTY ROOMS IN VAIN... BUT UPSTAIRS ITS BEAM SUDDENLY REVEALS SHINING JEWELRY IN A GRUESOME SETTING!
THEY ALWAYS STAY AWAY FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR... PLENTY OF TIME TO FIND THOSE "VALUABLE THINGS" THAT CREEP MENTIONED!

As QUAGG HOLDS BACK THE COFFIN LID, THE GHOUL DRAWS A KNIFE AND SETS TO WORK ...

HERE! STOP SHAKING AND HOLD THIS FINGER... AND DON'T TRY TO PALM OFF THE RING!

YAIK

AND AS THE TERRIFIED QUAGG WATCHES, HALF SICK WITH FRIGHT AT THE LURID SPECTACLE, COLD GOLD FILLED TEETH ARE SUDDENLY DROPPED INTO HIS HAND...

JUST LOOK AT THE EARRINGS-- FABULOUS! ADMIT IT! ROBBING THE DEAD'S MORE PROFITABLE THAN LOOTING THE POCKETS OF THE LIVING!

THE OTHER COFFINS ARE WAITING! WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE! TAKE THIS KNIFE AND GET TO WORK!

Y-YOU MEAN YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT YOU'VE DONE?

I'M NOT TOUCHING THOSE CORPSES! WHERE'S THAT NIGHT WATCH MAN?

DON'T LET A SQUEAMISH STOMACH STOP YOU!

GRAB HIM! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!

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- Opens instantly
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- Stainless Steel Blade

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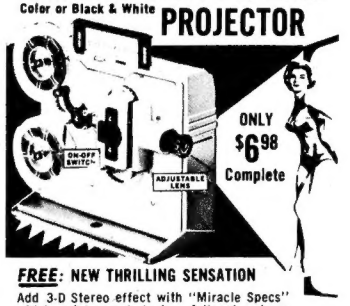

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NO! YOU'RE NOT STOPPING ME, YOU PACK OF GRAVE-ROBBING GHOULS!
GET THE KNIFE!
BEFORE QUAGG CAN CRY FOR HELP, PUMMELING HANDS BEAT HIM TO THE GROUND...
HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! NOW... DUMP HIM INTO THE SECOND COFFIN!
CRACK
QUICKLY, QUAGG IS PLACED IN A LOOTED COFFIN! THE HORRIBLE EARLESS, MUTILATED CADAVAR IS THEN LOWERED ON TOP OF THE UNCONSCIOUS PICKPOCKET...
WE CAN'T BURY HIM-- HE'S NOT DEAD YET!
HE WILL BE... ONCE WE CLOSE THE COFFIN TOP!
AND AS THE COFFIN LID COMES DOWN, QUAGG COMES TO... A WITNESS TO HIS OWN HORROR!
SQEEK
HEE! HEE!
N-NO! NO! STOP!
MINUTES TICK BY...
HE'S DEAD!... LOOK AT HIS HANDS, AT THE SIDE OF THAT STIFF! HA-HA! WHAT A FATE FOR A PICK-POCKET!-THE DEAD HAVE NO POCKETS!
THE LID CLOSES... A MUFFLED SCREAM IS HEARD... THEN, GRIM SILENCE!
EEEEEEEE
HE SHOULD SUFFOCATE IN THIS AIR-TIGHT COFFIN!
THE END